



News Release

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Department Establishes School Support Award Award To Honor And Recognize Integral Educational Partners

The Michigan Department of Education is pleased to announce the establishment of a state level award to honor the important contributions made by school support personnel in schools around the state.

The Michigan School Support Person of the Year Award Program (SSPoY) represents a collaborative effort on the part of the Department of Education and representatives of several support staff unions and education associations, said Michigan Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Watkins.

"We have developed this award in the course of the last several months to identify and honor outstanding support persons who make a difference in Michigan schools every day," Watkins said. "Our school support personnel are important partners in ensuring optimal learning environments for our children."

The establishment of the program marks the first time the state of Michigan has formally recognized the contribution of school support personnel who are integral to the success of our schools.

Nominees for the SSPoY Award must meet five criteria. They must:

- be exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable, and skilled members of the support staff;
- go above and beyond the call of duty;
- be supportive of the learning environment;
- play an active and useful role in the community, as well as in the school;
- be employed in one of the following work classifications: transportation, maintenance, custodial, office personnel, security, food services, professional support to teachers, health services group, skilled trades.

Nominations may be initiated by school administrators, supervisors, teachers, students, former students, community members, colleagues, parents, or education related organizations.

Detailed information regarding the nomination and selection processes can be accessed on the Department's website at www.mi.gov/mde

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